

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00840 241520Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241615Z 022911 /44

O 241450Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6141
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0840

EXDIS

KHARTOUM FRO AMBASSADOR YOUNG (OR)
LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJ: SSRC TO DENY YOUNG MEETING

REFS: (A) PRETORIA 2398, (B) PRETORIA 2464, (C) PRETORIA 2560

1. SSRC EXECUTIVE SENT MESSAGE TO EMBOFF EVENING MAY 23
STATING THAT SECURITY POLICE IN JOHANNESBURG HAVE BEGUN
PICKING UP SSRC MEMBERS FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT MEETING WITH
AMBASSADOR YOUNG. SSRC EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS HAVE BEEN
TELLING POLICE THAT NEITHER THEY NOR ANY OF THEIR
REPRESENTATIVES MT YOUNG. SSRC ASSUMES POLICE ARE
REACTING TO AMBASSADOR'S REFERENCE TO "STATEMENT" AT
MAY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE PLUS INACCURATE MAY 23 RAND DAILY
MAIL REPORT BY PATRICK LAURENCE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET
WITH CECHABA MONSTSITSI, PRESIDENT OF SSRC. AS OF LATE
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EVENING MAY 23, STUSENTS HAVE BEEN ONLY QUESTIONED, NONE
DETAINED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE BY POLICE, SSRC EXECUTIVE
ISSUED MAY 23 STATEMENT TO PRESS DENYING ANY MEETING
BETWEEN SSRC REPRESENTATIVES AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG. SSRC
SIMULTANEOUSLY SENT MESSAGE TO EMBOFF FOR AMB. YOUNG

EXPLAINING WHY DENIAL ISSUED AND TO ASSURE AMBASSADOR THAT BOTH STUDENTS HE MET WERE IN FACT SENT BY SSRC. POLICE APPARENTLY DO NOT KNOW IDENTITY OF STUDENTS INVOLVED BOTH OF WHOM HAVE GONE UNDERGROUND FOR PROTECTION.

3. SSRC REQUESTS AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY NOT REPEAT NOT REBUT PRESS DENIAL REGARDING SSRC MEETING. SSRC WOULD PREFER PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT EMBASSY DECEIVED BY UNKNOWN STUDENTS OR THAT STUDENTS WHO MET WITH AMBASSADOR WERE NOT FROM EITHER SSRC OR SOWETO AS REPORTED BY LAURENCE.

4. SSRC EXPECTS POLICE CONCERN OVER ALLEGED MEETING WITH YOUNG TO COOL SOON AFTER DENIAL MADE PUBLIC. ORGANIZATION HAS DECIDED TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS. EXECUTIVE IS "ENORMOUSLY EXCITED" OVER MEETING WITH YOUNG AND SATISFIED THAT TWO STUDENTS WERE NOT DETACHED BY POLICE ON WAY TO OR FROM OPPERNHEIMER HOME. 5. COMMENT: IN SSRC VIEW, MEETING WITH YOUNG WAS UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. PART OF SSRC ENTHUSIASM STEMS FROM OUTFLANKING BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC) WHICH TOOK PUBLIC STAND AGAINST MEETING WITH YOUNG UNLESS PRIOR CONDITIONS MET AS REPORTED REFTELS. SEVERAL SSRC CONTACTS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT BPC IS BASICALLY "DO-NOTHING ORGANIZATION RUN BY INTELLECTUALS". SSRC/BPC RIVALRY HAS NEVER REACHED PUBLIC ARENA AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT EXISTS CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED AT THIS POINT.

6. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, AMB. YOUNG NEVER IDENTIFIED
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STUDENTS AS FROM SSRC.

7. WE ARE STARTING TO GET PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH BLACK STUDENTS AND ARE REPLYING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH WHITE AND BLACK STUDENTS WHILE AT MR. OPPENHEIMER'S HOME. MEETING WITH BLACK STUDENTS WAS PRIVATE. THEY ASKED THAT THEIR NAMES NOT BE MADE PUBLIC AND WE ARE HONORING THAT REQUEST. BOWDLER

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